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Research Article

EDUCATION AND AGE AS THE DETERMINANTS OF INTERNAL FEMALE MIGRATION IN INDIA: AN ANALYSIS OF SECONDARY DATA

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the role of educational level and age in the decision making process of female migration. It analyses the trend of female migrants with respect to their educational qualification and age at migration. It tries to explain how educational qualification and their age effect their migration decision. Urbanization has positively affected migration. It has opened up many opportunities. Over the years, the number of female migrants has increased worldwide. Now, female migrants comprise of 50 percent of international migrants. Further, many efforts have been made to educate and empower women all over the world. India is not an exception in this regard. Hence, it is important to see if women especially from backward areas are being able to utilize these opportunities. Empirically, education and age has been considered as among the major determinant of migration. In general, the literature appears to favour the prospect that educational attainment does increase the likelihood of migration. Further, educated and young women are likely to take part in the migration decision not only of their but also of the family. They may be involved in the decision making process, not only whether to migrate or not but also where to migrate. This would in turn enhance their status in the family as well as in the society. Based on the secondary data on internal female migrants, this paper attempts to establish this positive relationship of migration with educational attainment and age of females. The study considers females of 15-49 age groups who have migrated to the urban areas of India.

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INTRODUCTION

Migration is a universal phenomenon and it is not of recent origin (Gill, 1998, Chand *et al.*, 1998, Naik *et al.*, 2009, Chakraborty and Kuri, 2008, Awasthi, 2010). Man was moving here and there in search of good environment and settlement without any interruption since from the first day of human appearance on this planet. Migration makes the human beings to think and lead a normal and problem free life, depending upon the previous experiences of human living in different parts (Singh and Kaur, 2007, Halemani and Shashikala, 2009, Naik *et al.*, 2009, Lamani, 2009). From the demographic point of view, migration is one of the three basic components of population growth of any area, the others being fertility, mortality (Bhagat, 2005, Doddarasaiah and Shivalingappa 2008, Lamani, 2009). But, whereas both fertility and mortality operate within the biological framework, migration does not. It influences size, composition and distribution of population. More importantly, migration influences the social, political and economic life of the people (Singh, 1998). Through migration, people move from a permanent place of residence to another

more or less permanent one for a substantial period of time (Singh and Kaur, 2007). Migration can benefit poor people in developing countries and its role in economic development is widely recognized (Rao, 1996). It occupies an important role in this era of globalization and industrialization. For individual and families, migration can increase income, lead to new skills, improve social status, build assets and improve the quality of life. For a country, migration can relieve labour market and political pressures, result in increased trade and direct investment from abroad, lead to positive activity such as remittances, promote social and political change and lead to the eventual return by successful migrants who invest in their country of origin (International Development Report, 2007). Migration is characterized by enormous economic and social diversity spanning socio-economic variables such as caste, land holding size, age, sex, education, family size and composition, activity, consumption levels and more (Srivastava, 2005). The exodus from rural areas is gaining significance day by day because of the complexity of the labour migration process and fast changing socio-economic conditions of migrant labour (Korra, 2009). Migration is a form

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of social interaction by which regions of varying levels of economic and social development and rates of development are connected by streams of persons changing their residence and work place from one region to another. The direction and volume of migration has considerably changed over the years. Migration flows are pronounced from economically backward or stagnating regions to prosperous or dynamic regions. Migration is normally viewed as an economic phenomenon (Murugan and Lakshmi, 2010).

United Nations Multilingual Demographic Dictionary defines migration as, "a form of geographical mobility or spatial mobility between one geographical unit and another, generally involving a change in residence from the place of origin or place of departure to the place of destination or place of arrival." According to Indian Census (2001), a person is considered a migrant, if birth place or place of last residence is different from place of enumeration. The National Sample Survey Organisation of the Government of India defines a migrant as 'a member of the sample household who had stayed continuously for at least six months or more in a place other than the place of enumeration.' In short, a migrant is defined as a person who has changed his usual place of residence from one politically defined area to another similar area.

While studying migration, researchers usually ignore the gender dimension. They generalized the phenomena of migration for both male and female and were more concerned with the male movement. Females were not given attention separately, as it was assumed that females move with family only. Female migration as a subject matter of research has gained importance in recent past. The process female migration is not similar in all respect with male migration. The reasons and determinants that effect the decision of females to migrate may vary from that of males. Further, females play various roles in their life and have many responsibilities which are not similar with male. Therefore, a general theory is not appropriate to discuss the phenomena of female migration. Hence a separate study of female migration is of great importance. This paper tries to find out the various determinants of internal female migration in India while giving special attention on educational attainment and age level of those migrants.

Conceptual Framework

There are some of the key words that have been used in this study. They are explained below-

Migrant- Migrants are people who move out of their place of origin for various reasons to some other place which is known as place of destination.

Migration- Migration is defined as a move from one migration-defining area to another, made during a given migration interval and involving a change of residence.

Migration Intervals- In order to analyze migration, total time period is divided into a series of intervals and assemble the data separately for each interval.

Internal migration- Internal migration indicates the process of movement within the national boundaries. In this study it is important because here migration considered is within the state Assam.

Place of origin or Place of departure- The place from which a move is made.

Place of destination or Place of arrival- It refers to the place at which a move terminates.

Migration Streams: Migrants who depart from an area of origin and arrive at a common area of destination, during a particular migration interval, constitute a migration stream. There are four major migration streams-1) rural to rural, 2) rural to urban, 3) urban to urban and 4) urban to rural.

Objective

The main objectives of the paper are:-

1. To study the trend of internal female migration in India
2. To study the determinants of internal female migration
3. To analysis age and educational level as determinants of female internal migration

DATA AND METHOLOGOLY

All the data used in this paper are collected from "Census of India" and National Statistical Sample Organization. National level data are being collected and some of the major states of India are being taken into consideration for the analysis purpose. Migration to the urban areas in India is taken into account. For analyses, data are rearranged in a systematic manner and formulated in tabular form. Graphs are used for the representation of the data. Microsoft Excel is used to calculate percentage.

Internal Female Migration in India

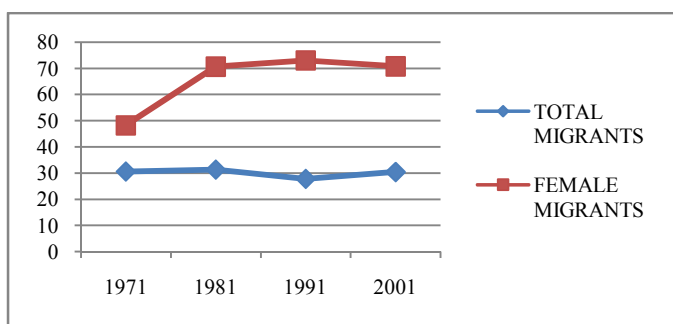
In India, the concentration of rural migrants in urban settlements is increasing over the years. Out of the total population of 1,028.6 million in 2001, 307 million persons had been identified as migrants, which constitute a substantial 29.9 percent of the total population. On the basis of 64th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS), the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has published a report titled "Migration in India 2007-08" where it is mentioned that migration of households in both the rural and urban areas was dominated by the migration of households from rural areas. Again, among the migrants in the urban areas, nearly 59% migrated from the rural areas. The report also revealed that nearly 60% of urban male migrants and 59% of urban female migrants had migrated from rural areas. In that context, the rural to urban component of the flow is estimated to be highly significant both in terms of number and its subsequent socio-economic impact. Migration is an important livelihood strategy in India and Indian history is full of migratory movements within the country as well as outside it (Sundari, 2005, Deshingkar, 2006). Indian Constitution provides basic freedom to move to any part of the country, right to reside and earn livelihood of their choice (Singh, 1998, Sundari, 2005). Thus, migrants are not required to register either at the place of origin or at the place of destination (Bhagat, 2005). There has been a steady increase in the country in the number of migrants. The census of India reveals that in 2001 the total number of persons that has internally migrated across the states of India is almost double of that of 1971(Chandra, 2002, Bhagat, 2009). The proportion of internal migrants in India is depicted in Table 1.

Table 1 Size of Internal Migrants In India (In Million)

Census	Total Population	Internal Migration	Percentage of Total Migrants	Percentage of Female Internal Migrants
1971	548.1	159.6	30.6	48.26
1981	659.3	2005.5	31.3	70.62
1991	814.3	220.7	27.8	72.94
2001	1028.6	307.2	30.4	70.69

Source: Census of India, 1971-2001

Table 1.1 reveals the growing higher proportion of internal migration. The total number of internal migrants has doubled since 1971. Female internal migration has shown an increasing trend in India. It is clear from this that female move more and the number of movement is at an increasing rate. The table reveals that 70 percent of total internal migrants are women and hence this group needs special attention. The graphical representation of the data is as follows:-



Determinants of Internal Female Migration

Broadly, the factors associated with the decision to migrate are classified in two categories viz., push factors and pull factors. Push factors includes those reasons because of which people move out of their place of origin and pull factors are those because of which people comes to a new place known as place of destination. Economic reasons such as famines, scarcities, indebtedness and the lack of sufficient employment opportunities in their native places were noted as the major push factors. In the case of pull factors, some of the women migrants were fascinated by urban life and some of them wanted to join with their husbands who had already migrated. In spite of the miserable condition of slum life and the frequent social disturbances in the city, the women migrants conditioned to join in, as the condition in their village were even worse when compared to city. Samal and Mishra (1998) highlighted that pull factors have been mainly responsible for inducing migration. It was observed that poor economic conditions acted as one of the most important push factor that compel labourers to migrate from their native places. The poverty of the migrants was generally attributed to large size joint families, small land holdings, low productivity of land, occurrence of droughts, floods and famines and the lack of any supplementary sources of income that made it difficult for them to fulfill their basic needs and acted as the main cause of migration.

Sundari (2005) in her study discussed the determinants of female migration in Tamil Nadu by analysing the 1991 census. The results of regression analysis indicated that urban female migration has been influenced by urban male migration rate, urban female literacy and urban female work participation rate.

Zachariah and Rajan (2001) analysed the determinants of migration in Kerala. By considering only push factors, the study analysed the significance of education and community and found that the rate of migration was higher among more educated and who belonged to Muslim and Christian community. The study further found that there was a negative association between migration and economic factors and concluded that economic factors played less role in migration. Hussain *et al.* (2004) made an attempt to study the major factor behind the migration of 120 respondents of Faisalabad city in Pakistan. It revealed that a majority of the respondents were agreed with the non- availability of job was the main reason for their migration. Besides, the absence of educational facility, poor health institutions, low paying jobs, poor rural settings, labour intensive agriculture production, family disorganization and polluted environment were found as the factors that pushed them to migrate. The outcome of the analysis indicated that better education and better employment were the pulling factors for their migration.

Mishra and Reddy (2005) studied the influence of socio-economic variables on seasonal migration and permanent migration from the rural areas of Bihar. The study revealed that higher caste educated households with lager number of dependents were more prone to permanent migration.

An empirical analysis was carried out by Devi *et al.* (2009) to find out the determination of rural out migration in Coimbatore city. The study made a survey of 100 migrants from four zones. It was revealed that migration among the low income group is mainly because of poverty and search of better employment. The study further demonstrated the significant gender gap in the literacy status among the male and female migrants. Literate female migrants were found to be less mobile than the illiterate females who are poverty- stricken.

Age and Education as determinant of internal female migration

Among other determinants of migration, age and educational attainment plays an important role in the decision to migrate among female migrants. It is evident from the data released by Census of India that over last two decades the number of illiterate female migrants has decreased among young groups. This is a clear indication that women at younger age group and comparatively higher educational status migrate to urban areas of India. Data from two Census years i.e 1991 and 2001 is presented below to make a comparison between the two.

Percentage of illiterate female migrants in different age groups in 1991 and 2001

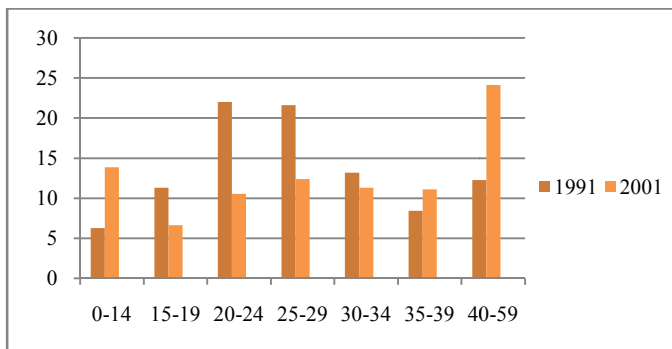
Age -group	Total female migrants		Illiterate	
	1991	2001	1991	2001
All ages	21.62	52.46	22.87	34.13
0-14	6.27	13.88	12.56	18.50
15-19	11.31	6.63	8.40	2.74
20-24	22.02	10.54	11.54	6.60
25-29	21.62	12.37	16.40	9.15
30-34	13.20	11.30	10.46	9.69
35-39	8.43	11.10	10.04	10.61
40-59	12.27	24.11	22.06	26.38

Source: census of India computed from table D:9 and D:4

It is evident from the table that overall female migrants have increased over the last decade from 21.62 percent in 1991 to 52.46 percent in 2001. But it does not show a similar trend for

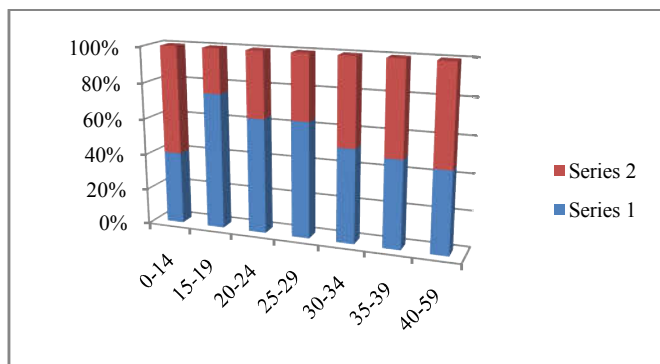
all the age groups. Below the age 15, female migration doubled in 2001, while it fallen by 50 percent fore age group 15-19. Further, till age 34 all age group depicts a downward trend. Interestingly, it showed a upward trend for the age group over 40 years. This increase in older group may be because of better educational facility of their children or may be for a better living condition.

The graphical Representation of Data on illiterates is as follows



Again, among these migrated women, though the percentage of total illiterate females have shown a increasing trend, yet among young groups such rate has fallen to a great extent. This implies that those who are migrating now in the younger age group i.e below 35 years are literate. This would further imply that, these women may have taken the decision to migrate due to economic reasons i.e for better employment opportunities in the place of destination.

The graphical representation of the data is as follows:-



	AGE GROUP							
	0-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-59	60+
India	13.88%	6.63%	10.54%	12.37%	11.30%	11.10%	24.11%	9.86%
Maharashtra	15.94%	6.72%	10.59%	12.45%	11.04%	10.62%	22.61%	9.96%
Tamil nadu	15.96%	7.27%	10.25%	12.12%	10.01%	10.30%	23.91%	9.41%
Gujrat	16.76%	7.37%	11.02%	11.87%	11.32%	10.58%	22.55%	8.44%
Delhi	11.88%	5.66%	10.42%	13.48%	12.29%	11.47%	24.19%	10.51%
Karnataka	15.89%	7.57%	11.41%	12.87%	10.42%	10.83%	22.59%	8.36%

Source: census of India computed from table D:4

		Educational Level					
	LITERATE	Literate but below Matric/Secondary		Matric/Secondary but below graduate	Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree	Graduate and above other than technical degree	Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree
		India	All ages	65.87	53.27	29.40	0.69
Maharashtra	All ages	70.15	54.99	29.56	0.46	11.29	2.03
Tamil nadu	All ages	71.56	56.09	29.57	0.64	8.31	2.07
Gujrat	All ages	68.08	56.08	29.26	1.57	11.13	1.15
Delhi	All ages	61.36	47.28	28.47	0.47	19.63	2.62
Karnataka	All ages	68.82	48.92	34.13	1.44	11.73	2.63

Source: census of India computed from table D:4

The percentage of female migrants distributed over different age groups for five important states of India viz., Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujrat. Delhi and Karnataka is presented below:-

Percentage of female migrants among different age groups 2001

The table shows that overall female migrants distributed over all age groups in these five states are similar with that of national rates. Delhi shows a slightly higher share in the age group above 25years as compared to other states. This may be because of the fact that Delhi has many good educational institutions and it offers jobs to qualified persons. Such opportunities may have pulled many young girls from all over India to Delhi.

Educational attainment of female migrants to urban areas of India 2001

Here, educational attainment of migrant women is being shown for the Census year 2001. On an average 50 percent of the migrated women are below secondary level for all the states followed by women with secondary education. This may be because of the fact that women may have migrated for higher education in urban areas. It is quite obvious to have a low share of technical degree holders among migrants due to lack of higher educational institutions in rural areas.

CONCLUSION

It is clear from the data that female migration in India has increased over last decade. These women may have taken this decision due to different reasons but there is a similar percentage share of these women over different age groups in almost all states. This young group of woman with lower educational levels may enter into informal sector in near future. If they acquire higher education, they may get better employment opportunities. These women may also improve their status if they could participate in the labour force. All these would definitely help the urban economy. Therefore, while studying female migration, age and educational attainment plays an important part. This is because of the fact that young and educated woman may become asset for the family as well as for the economy.

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